

Library

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH

and

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

of the

Halstead Urban District

for the Year 1959

by

Dr. JOHN HARKNESS

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspector



Printed by
W. H. ROOT
HALSTEAD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MRS. O. M. DAUKES (Chairman)

A. G. FROST, Esq.

H. W. FROST, Esq.

C. R. JUNIPER, Esq.

B. R. LOCK, Esq.

F. K. PUDNEY, Esq.

J. R. ROOT, Esq.

COUNCIL OFFICES

RED HOUSE, COLCHESTER ROAD, HALSTEAD, ESSEX

TELEPHONE: HALSTEAD 2210

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
DR. JOHN HARKNESS
M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.

Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Rural District Council
and
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HAROLD NIELD
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.
Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Rural District Council

Deputy Public Health
Inspector

BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health
Inspectors

JOHN H. BULMER
D.R.S.H.
(From 1.8.59)

PETER E. L. REED
M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Clerk

PETER E. ADAMS
(From 20.4.59)

Clerk Typist

MISS MARY A. BECKWITH
(To 18.3.59)

MISS JOYCE B. SCRUBY
(From 16.3.59 to 31.7.59)

MRS. ANN NUNN
(From 17.8.59)

General Assistant

MICHAEL CRISP

Part-time Rodent Operator

ALFRED LAUGHLIN

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1959.

In April 1959 the Public Health Department was amalgamated with the Rural District Council's Public Health Department to form a joint Department. This should lead to greater co-operation in the sphere of Public Health and to an equalisation of the standards throughout the District.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 6,660, an increase of 110 on 1958.

There were 96 live births which gives a birth rate of 16.0 per 1,000 of the population compared with 16.5 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 8.8 per 1,000 of the population compares with that of 11.6 for England and Wales.

There was one infant death which gives an infant mortality rate of 10.4 per 1,000 live births.

Infectious Diseases

There were only 15 cases of infectious disease notified during the year. The immunisation campaign against Poliomyelitis continued during the year. As infectious diseases are controlled by Public Health measures and by immunisation campaigns it will be found that the work of the Department will extend to the investigation of other diseases of a non-infectious nature. It is hoped that such an investigation will be started in 1960 in collaboration with the General Practitioners in the town into the incidence of Diabetes in the town. It is estimated that for every known case of this disease there is another unknown case and one of the aims of the investigation will be to discover these unknown cases.

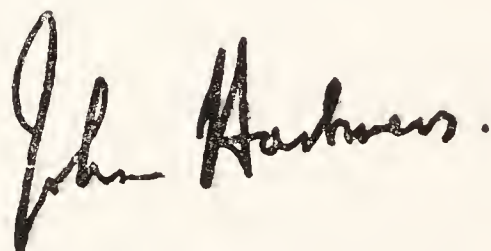
Environmental Hygiene

A start was made with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme and three Clearance Orders affecting 18 houses were made during the year. Mention must be made of the new Standard

Grants which were introduced during the year. These Grants are intended for help with the provision of certain basic amenities:- a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a bath in a bathroom, a hot water supply and a food store. There are a large number of houses in Halstead which lack one or other of these essential amenities and the introduction of these grants should enable landlords to bring their houses up to this standard which, in the present day, can only be considered a minimum standard. The Council own over 300 houses which require one or more of these improvements and a start is to be made in 1960 with the first phase of this work.

It cannot be over emphasised that continual existence in a house which is sub-standard, plays an extremely important part in the break down of a person's physical and mental health. The housewife who spends most of her time in the house and attempts to do her work in unfavourable conditions is most exposed to this harmful influence and is thus most likely to suffer from its effects. This gradual deterioration in health is not easily measured but is felt by the rest of the family, and the striking change if the house is improved or the family rehoused in a modern Council house is easily seen by all.

The Chief Public Health Inspector has summarised some of the work of the Department in this report and improvements are obtained and standards raised only by continued vigilance in these routine duties.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Harrison'.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report dealing with the Public Health Inspectors' work during the year 1959.

From the various tables and brief notes given on pages 10 to 23 some measure may be gauged of the broad field and many facets of environmental public health work which your Public Health Inspectors are called upon to carry out. It will be obvious that it is impossible to concentrate unduly on any one particular aspect, but the broad results of these duties help to ensure that the level of public health is maintained and indeed improved year by year.

In April 1959 a joint Public Health Department serving the Halstead Urban and Rural District Councils was formed, and an additional Public Health Inspector commenced duties in August. During the year concentrated attention was given to general survey work in order to become familiar with the circumstances of the District and general administration of the new joint Department.

The year was not marked by any particularly notable events, and perhaps the only matters worthy of special mention were the making by the Council of three Clearance Orders affecting 18 dwelling-houses (Manfield Nos. 1 and 2, and Belle Vue No. 3), and renewed progress with discretionary Improvement Grants and Standard Grants.

Food Hygiene work in general was curtailed, although the standard was reasonably satisfactory, and food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. It is really essential that these important duties should receive adequate attention. 100% meat inspection was again carried out, but adequate poultry inspection at the two poultry dressing premises, where approximately 20,000 birds were killed weekly, was not possible. The amount of routine sampling of milk, ice cream and ice lollies was below average, but the same sources of these commodities were sampled in the Halstead Rural District.

Housing duties took priority in the work of the Department and good progress was made in this sphere. The Slum Clearance Programme, which involves the repair and reconditioning as well

as the demolition of dwelling-houses, progressed satisfactorily. Both discretionary Improvement Grants and the new Standard Grants introduced during the year were made by the Council. Concentration on the routine inspection, repair and reconditioning of dwelling-houses in the District is of prime importance. Unless the normal deterioration of existing houses, appreciable numbers of which are progressively falling steadily behind modern standards on account of age and lack of repair and improvement work, is arrested by timely reconditioning work, a more serious slum clearance problem might present itself in the not too distant future.

The importance of the protective and preventive work accomplished by the manifold day to day routine public health duties, too numerous for individual comment, should not be underestimated.

The interest and confidence of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee was deeply appreciated. I express my thanks to the staff for their willing and loyal assistance despite the many pressing demands on their services. I was also indebted to colleagues in other Departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. M. B. C.', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	6,660
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	2,307
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£82,022
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£320

Live Births:

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	92	52	40
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	3	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	14.4
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	16.0
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	16.5

Still Births:

				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total births (live and still)	...	...	...	...	...	96

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	—
Neonatal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	4.2
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	—

Deaths:

				Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	73	37	36
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	11.0
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	...	...	...	8.8
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	11.6

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1959

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	4
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	1
Diabetès	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5
Coronary disease, angina	6	3
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2
Other heart disease	1	3
Other circulatory disease	3	1
Influenza	0	0
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformation	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	1
Suicide	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals ...	37	36

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease				Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0
Dysentery	...	...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	...	...	...	1	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	13	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	...	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	0	0
Totals				15	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases notified: 0

Transfers from other Districts: 0

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 1

1. FOOD

(a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by your Public Health Inspectors regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	4	6
Fish Fryers	2	5
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	3	3
General Provision Shops	40	26
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	24	3
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	7	7
Meat Shops	5	32
Poultry Dressing Premises	2	6
Public Houses and Inns	33	2
Restaurants and Cafes	3	15
Slaughterhouses	2	203
Street Vendors	0	4
Totals ...	125	312

Food premises fully surveyed	5
Food poisoning investigations	0
Informal notices served	2
Food premises improved	2
Food vehicles improved	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year. Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. Success in this matter is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of Food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	205lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	65lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	59lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	266lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	35lbs.

Total 630lbs.

This condemned food was disposed of by burial in deep refuse pits. No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

(c) Post-mortem Inspection of Animals

Two slaughterhouses licensed by the Council were used for meat supplies to local butchers during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on five days per week including Saturday afternoons.

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed (Estimated) ...	380	0	4	1,020	740	0
No. Inspected ...	330	0	4	895	665	0
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	0	0	1	1	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	1.21	0	0	0.11	0.15	0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	6	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0.90	0
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0

The figures in the above tables are in respect of animals inspected during or shortly after slaughter. Where such inspection was impossible on account of pressure of other work, carcasses were examined in butchers' shops on the days after slaughter.

Licensed Slaughtermen 7.

(d) **Milk and Dairies**

Details of registrations, licences and inspections, are given in the following table:—

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Registered Dairy Premises	5	6
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	5	5
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk	5	5
Licensed Dealers of Sterilised Milk	4	4
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	—
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	1	—
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	0	—
Totals ...	21	20

(e) **Ice Cream**

There were no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Details of samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	1	Excellent	1
II	0	V. Satisfactory	0
III	0	Satisfactory	0
IV	0	Fair	0
		Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 1		Total 1

(f) **General**

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for Chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice-cream, etc., but details of such sampling were not notified to the Urban District Council.

2. WATER

The water supply of the area was satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity, although during the summer drought it was necessary to restrict the use of water for gardens, washing cars, etc. Water from the Council's Undertaking was not treated by chlorination or softening.

As a routine procedure samples were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination and included some of the raw water direct from the borewell. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

During the year the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

- (a) Inspections regarding water supplies ... 5
- (b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies ... 0
- (c) Informal Notices served re water supplies ... 1
- (d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table ... 7

Source		No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Stand-ard
Public Water Mains	...	7	7	0
Private Water Mains	...	0	0	0
Public Wells, etc.	...	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc.	...	0	0	0
Totals	...	7	7	0

A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply is given in the following table:

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
Turbidity	Less than 3	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	270
Colour	0	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	20
Odour	0	Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.25
pH	7.3	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	24	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.02
Electric Conductivity ...	700	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	465	Oxygen Absorbed ...	0.10
Chlorine present as Chloride	76	Metals: Iron	0.15
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	270	Zinc ...	Absent
Hardness: Total ...	290	Copper, Lead, Manganese, etc	Absent

The Council's public swimming baths were again used during May to September, each week from Friday to Tuesday, being emptied Wednesdays and filled Thursdays with water from the Council's undertaking. Hand chlorination was carried out, and as a routine procedure samples of the baths water during use were submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. During the open season 18 samples were taken and found to be suitable for swimming bath purposes with the exception of the first two bacteriological samples. Eight chemical samples failed to attain a high standard of clarity due to iron content, but the turbidity was not excessive.

3. HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	...	...	248
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	...	...	54
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	...	...	63
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	...	...	3
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	1
(6)	Inspections of moveable dwellings	...	...	8
(7)	Miscellaneous Housing inspections	...	...	105
(8)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	...	...	0

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects	...	...	21
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act	...	...	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act, requiring remedy of housing disrepair	...	...	0

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses.

(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses Officially Represented under Housing Act	...	...	23
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation	...	...	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	...	...	0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	...	...	5
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec., 1959)	...	...	...
	(i) to make fit for human habitation	...	...	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	...	...	14
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	...	...	0
	(b) Closing Orders determined	...	...	1
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec., 1959)	...	...	5
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	...	...	4
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	...	...	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec., 1959)	...	...	4
(5)	(a) Clearance Orders made (3 Orders)	...	...	18
	(b) Accumulated total of outstanding Clearance Orders (Dec., 1959)	...	...	18

(d) **Slum Clearance Proposals**

Details of the Council's ten years (1956/1965) Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables:

Houses in District	Unfit Houses	Houses to be demolished during 5 year period 1956/60
2,265	398*	100

Year	Houses Represented	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Clearance Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Unfit Houses awaiting consideration by Council
1956	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	
1957	36	13	16	10	0	0	3	
1958	4	2	0	1	0	1	11	
1959	23	0	0	4	18	6	16	
Totals	67	16	16	16	18	7	30	320*

* Subject to review.

(e) Housing Improvements

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors		46
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"		8
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices		0
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices		0
(5)	Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders		6
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act		16

(f) Housing Improvement Grants

(1)	Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants		5
(2)	Discretionary Improvement Grants approved (for £689)	...	5
(3)	Schemes completed		2
(4)	Applications for Standard Grants		5
(5)	Standard Grants approved (for maximum of £570)		5
(6)	Schemes completed		0
(7)	Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	...	0

(g) **Rent Act**

(1)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	1		
(2)	Decisions to issue Certificates	...	...	...	...	1
(3)	Undertakings given by Landlords	...	...	...	...	1
(4)	Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	...	0
(5)	Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...				0

(h) **Housing Overcrowding**

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1958	...	...	0
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1959	...	...	1
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1959	...	...	1
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1959	...	...	0

(i) **Moveable Dwellings**

(1) Licensed Camping Grounds	...	...	0
(2) Licensed Moveable Dwellings	...	...	1
(3) Informal Notices served re Moveable Dwellings	...	...	0

4. **WORKPLACES**

(a) **Inspections and Notices**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	26	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	56	17	2	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	0	0	0	0
Total ...	82	17	2	0

(b) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	2	1	0	0	0

(c) Out-Workers

Nature of Outwork	Section 110			Section 111			Inspections
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc. ...	5	0	0	0	0	0	5

(d) Miscellaneous

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ...	...	...	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation ...	...	...	0

5. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the District were reasonably adequate. No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal or important additions to existing works were carried out during the year.

Three inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers following complaints.

(b) Drainage.

(i) Drainage Duties

1. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	...	...	3
2. Drainage Inspections	...	...	16
3. Inspection of ditches, etc.	...	...	1
4. Drainage tests	...	...	1
5. Informal notices served	...	...	3
6. Statutory notices served	...	...	0

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, two drains were cleansed.

(c) Sanitary Fittings

Six inspections were made regarding sanitary conveniences, four Informal Notices were served, and as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors two sanitary conveniences were reconstructed.

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council possessed one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Colne Engaine in the Halstead Rural District.

Four inspections of the refuse dump, and 34 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made. One informal notice was served regarding a refuse accumulation and ten regarding provision of dustbins.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors 10 dustbins were provided.

6. PESTS

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. 5 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with insect pests, and 18 premises were disinfested in respect of ants, carpet beetles, fleas, flies, wasps, etc.

(b) Rodent Control

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

The Council continued the rat and mouse destruction contract services on Agricultural Properties, previously operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Towards the end of the year the Halstead and District Rabbit Clearance Society was formed, and one contract with an annual value of £8, was handed over to the Society with effect from 1st January, 1960.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Operator during the year were:—

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	¹ Local Authority	² Dwelling Houses Inc. Council Houses	³ All other (Inc. Business Premises)	⁴ Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	11	2,220	326	2,557	17
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	0	5	3	8	0
(b) Survey under the Act	11	72	3	86	1
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	0	161	54	215	0
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections ...	16	251	67	334	8
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats Major	0	0	0	0	} 1
Minor	0	9	4	13	
(b) Mice Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	1	0	1	0
V. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	0	4	3	7	1
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments ...	0	5	3	8	3
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act					
(a) Treatment	0	1	0	1	0
(b) Structural work	0	0	0	0	0
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	0	0	0	0	0
IX. Legal proceedings	0	0	0	0	0
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	0	0	0	0	0

7. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a)	Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	...	...	...	...	6
(b)	Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations	...				10
(c)	Notifiable disease investigations	...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	...	...			0
(e)	Visits regarding miscellaneous public health matters	...	...			5
(f)	Bathing pool water samples taken	...	...	...	...	18
(g)	Pet Shop licences granted	...	...	...	...	2
(h)	Pet Shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	2
(i)	Rag Flock Storage licences granted	...	...	...	...	1
(j)	Rag Flock Act inspections	...	...	...	...	2
(k)	Waste Foods Boiling licences granted	...	...	...	...	1
(l)	Waste Foods Boiling premises inspections	...	...	...	...	2
(m)	Informal Notices served regarding miscellaneous matters	...				2

No special reports were submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year.

